

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note that several editorial amendments have been made to the specification for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

I. Objection to the Claims

Claims 30-37 have been objected to for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. By this amendment, Applicants note that the phrase “to be used for” has been removed from the preamble of each of the above-noted claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 30-37 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-17, 26-31 and 33-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

By this amendment, Applicants note that the claims have been amended so as to address each of the comments made by the Examiner on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. In view of such claim changes, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims now satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants kindly request that the above-noted rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 30-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that claims 30-33 are directed to a program per se. By this amendment, Applicants note that claims 30-33 have been amended so as to indicate that the program is embodied on a computer-readable medium.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 30-33 are now directed to statutory subject matter and, therefore, kindly that the above-noted rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 18-25, 36, 37 and 41 are allowed.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0975.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazuhiro AIZU et al.

/Kenneth W. Fields/
By: 2009.07.09 15:50:18 -04'00'

Kenneth W. Fields
Registration No. 52,430
Attorney for Applicants

KWF/krq
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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